



ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Central Council

630 Second Avenue

New York, New York 10016

(212) 686-0710

TO: All Clergy
Chapter Chairmen
Delegates to the 1991 ACYOA General Assembly

FROM: Lisa Manookian *Lisa*
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council

DATE: August 10, 1991

RE: INFORMATION AND MATERIALS PERTAINING
TO THE 1991 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Enclosed for your use and information are the following:

- * Itinerary for the 1991 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend
- * 1991 General Assembly Agenda
- * Delegate Credential Card

These materials have been sent directly to elected delegates declared by chapters. However, in those cases where the chapter has not made such a declaration, the materials have been sent to the Chapter Chairman for distribution. In all cases, a copy of this mailing is sent to the Parish Priest.

The Delegate Credential Card must be submitted in order to participate in the Assembly proceedings. Complete the card, affix the required signatures and present the card upon registration at the Assembly (5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 28th). **DO NOT MAIL THE CARD IN.**

A delegate whose card is not properly completed will not be permitted to participate in the Assembly proceedings. If there are circumstances which render the "proper completion" of a credential card difficult, please contact me (i.e. last minute change in delegates, thereby making it difficult to obtain signature from a required party).

I recommend that you bring a copy of the ACYOA Chapter Resource Handbook since it contains the ACYOA Constitution, Rules of Parliamentary Procedure and other useful information that may be needed for reference purposes. The enclosed materials should be brought as well.

The Central Council looks forward to your enthusiastic participation in this year's Assembly. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

/ldm
Enclosures



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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

February 19, 1991

TO: Tony Barsamian
ACYOA Central Council Chairperson

FROM: Nicole I. Mazmanian

SUBJECT: Translation of Communique from Committee of Youth
Organizations of Armenia, Yerevan

Attached you will find a copy of the translation of a communique we have received from Artashes Tantushyan, President of CYOA.

I was asked by Syraun Palvetzian to list some of my ideas, after reading the communique, on improving ties with young adults in Armenia.

In turn, please take some time to read the enclosed and prepare a summary of your response to his proposals, and also list ideas and/or projects you feel our ACYOA might proceed with in order to develop ties with the Committee.

CHARLES H. SHOOSHAN III

ATTORNEY AT LAW

846 FARMINGTON AVENUE SUITE ONE
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

TELEPHONE (203) 523-7773

February 27, 1991

To: **ACYOA Chapter Chairmen & Parish Contacts**

From: **ACYOA Central Council**

MEMORANDUM

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I am writing to inform you of a great opportunity for your ACYOA chapter or your parish youth to make a concrete, meaningful contribution to support the needs of some very special young people in Armenia.

Recently, the Center for Christian Education in Yerevan, directed by Fr. Abraham Mgrdchian, formed the Armenian Christian Cultural Youth Organization. This organization supports young artists in Yerevan, specifically, with regard to painting and preserving Christian religious art. There needs are basic -- they would like paints, brushes and canvases.

The ACYOA Central Council is requesting that as part of your Palm Sunday program, Palm Sunday being "ACYOA Day," you engage in fund raising for this noble cause.

We are hoping to raise an average of \$100.00 per chapter or parish and use the funds to purchase supplies in New York for delivery to Yerevan. You may send your checks (payable to ACYOA) to my attention.

If you have any questions or if you would like to help with this project, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Charles H. Shooshan III
ACYOA Central Council Vice Chairman

CHS:chs

For Suzanne Hays

TO: SYLVIA TERZIBASHIAN

(4 pages)

FROM: LISA MANOOKIAN

TELECOPY #: 212-779-3558

PLEASE MAKE SURE THE PRIMATE GETS THIS TRANSMISSION. I WILL TRY TO CONTACT HIM SOMETIME THIS WEEK TO SPEAK WITH HIM. IF THERE IS A SPECIFIC TIME HE IS AVAILABLE AND NOT TOO BUSY (PREFERABLY IN THE EVENING), PLEASE LET ME KNOW. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Lisa

Palm Beach

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

Central Council

630 Second Avenue

New York, New York 10016

212. 886-0710

February 26, 1991

VIA TELECOPY

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Grace:

I am attaching a copy of a letter I sent to Mr. Charles Giragosian on behalf of the ACYOA Central Council. In telephone conversations with Council members following the Anniversary Ball Weekend, there was a consensus to send Mr. Giragosian an official letter. While we probably won't receive a reply from him, we felt that the issue was not completely addressed when we spoke with him. The Council further felt that the Diocesan Council should be aware of the incident and as such, I sent copies to the Hon. Vincent Gurahian and Dr. Edward Onanian.

Along another note, I received a call from Mrs. Ann Najarian, who once again offered the use of the Najarian's summer house in Cape Cod, where it has become a tradition for the Council to hold its final meeting prior to the General Assembly. Mrs. Najarian suggested that we might want to have our Inter-Diocesan meeting there in June or July. If this is feasible for everyone, maybe we could have the Inter-Diocesan meeting at the Cape and our final meeting in New York. When Your Grace's time permits, I would like to discuss this as well as some issues which I would like to place on the agenda for our April meeting.

Respectfully,

Lisa D. Manookian

Lisa D. Manookian

Chairman

ACYOA Central Council

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Attachment

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Dioecese of the Armenian Church of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

Central Council

630 Second Avenue

New York, New York 10016

212 596-0710

February 14, 1991

Mr. Charles Giragosian
5801 N.W. 23rd Avenue
Boca Raton, FL 33496

Dear Mr. Giragosian:

On behalf of the ACOYA Central Council and the members of our organization, I am formally writing to inform you how displeased we were with your remarks at the ACOYA's banquet in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mardigian. While several members of the Council exchanged a few words with you following the banquet, I do not feel we completely addressed ourselves on the subject.

Mr. & Mrs. Mardigian's concern and generosity have been very instrumental for the growth and success of the ACOYA during the course of the past five years. Without their support, many of our programs and projects would not exist. One of the purposes of the affair was to thank the Mardigians for all they have done. The Central Council itself had no intentions of making any pitch for funds on behalf of the ACOYA to the group gathered, yet you chose to do so yourself, in an unofficial capacity from what I understand, for the expansion of the St. David Armenian Church. Mr. Giragosian, this was an ACOYA affair, not a St. David parish affair, and while I undoubtedly know you are devoted to serving your parish, you had no right to take advantage of a captive audience of people who were there to assist the ACOYA in paying tribute to Mr. & Mrs. Mardigian. It was neither the time nor the place.

Angered as we are with that, we are even more upset with the way in which you went about it. You approached Mr. Kachadoor Kazarian, our Master of Ceremonies, and requested to make a few "impromptu remarks about Eddy." When he informed you that he could not authorize it, you had the nerve to make this same request to Mrs. Mardigian, who allowed you to do so with the impression that you were going to make a few "impromptu remarks about Eddy." Unfortunately, you did more than make a few "impromptu remarks."

We are appalled that someone who calls himself a close friend of the Mardigians would stoop so low as to use them in this manner. You took advantage of two very dear people, Mr. Giragosian. No friend, no matter how close, would ask another to make a \$1 million contribution in front of 275 people. Asking anyone for a contribution in any way, shape or form is a private matter, not a public one. The fact that you made such a request in public illustrates

Mr. Charles Giragosian
February 14, 1981
Page 2

complete lack of disrespect for two people who have done more than enough -- two people whom you call "your friends."

Mr. Giragosian, you angered many individuals that night, many of whom might very well be your own friends. I have no doubt that you have a deep concern for the well-being of the St. David Armenian Church and I understand that you have made a significant contribution both through time and money towards the building of the parish. I only hope that you will realize that you were wrong in what you did and be more careful in the future.

Sincerely,



Lisa Manookian
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council

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Enclosure

cc: Rev. Dr. Zaven Arscumanian - Pastor, St. David Armenian Church
The Honorable Judge Vincent Gurahian - Chairman, Diocesan Council
Dr. Edward Gnaniian - Diocesan Council Liaison to the ACYOA



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TO: All Clergy
Chapter Chairmen
Delegates to the 1991 ACYOA General Assembly

FROM: Lisa Manookian *Lisa*
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council

DATE: August 10, 1991

RE: 1991 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SITE AND DATE

The ACYOA Central Council invites you to participate in the 1991 ACYOA General Assembly, which will convene on Wednesday, August 28, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Farmington, CT. All chapters which have fulfilled their obligations to the National Organization may send delegates to participate in the Assembly proceedings.

His Grace, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and National President of the ACYOA, shall preside over and address the Assembly.

Hosting this year's Assembly and the National Sports Weekend which directly follows, is the Hartford ACYOA of St. George Armenian Church.

Delegates to the Assembly include:

- * The Parish Priest (or Parish Council Chairman where there is no priest)
- * The Chapter Chairman
- * The Elected Delegates (See Article 10, Section 2 of the ACYOA Constitution to see how many delegates your chapter is eligible to send)

We urge every chapter to send representatives to this year's General Assembly. Any individual may attend the Assembly; however, only delegates from chapters in good standing may have voice and voting privileges.

The members of the ACYOA Central Council look forward to meeting you at the Assembly and hope that you will stay for the National Sports Weekend.

/ldm



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Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

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TO: All Clergy
Chapter Chairmen
Delegates to the 1991 ACYOA General Assembly

FROM: Lisa Manookian *Lisa*
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council

DATE: August 10, 1991

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

Enclosed for your information and use at the 1991 ACYOA General Assembly is the Annual Report of the ACYOA Central Council and the Executive Secretary.

Please review the report and bring it with you to the Assembly. If you have questions concerning the content of the report, the Council will be pleased to answer them prior to and during the Assembly proceedings.

/ldm
Enclosure



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Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Central Council

630 Second Avenue

New York, New York 10016

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June 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM

To: His Grace Bishop Khajag Barsamian
From: Antranig Barsamian
RE: YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP MEETING, JUNE 8TH, 1991

STATISTICS

This is a brief report of the Young Adult Leaders meeting held at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, Massachusetts, on June 8th, 1991.

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m and concluded at 3:30 p.m. with one ten minute break at 12:50 p.m.

ACYDA Chapters represented were; Watertown, MA; Cambridge, MA; Worcester, MA; Springfield, MA; Hartford, CT; New Britain, CT; Bayside, NY; Westchester, NY; Watervliet, NY; Tenafly, NJ; Fairlawn, NJ; Wynnewood, PA; Washington, DC; Boca Raton, FL; Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Evanston, IL, Racine, WI; Greenfield, WI; Richmond, VI.

In all twenty chapters sent young adult leaders, with over thirty-five participants including the ACYDA Central Council.

DISCUSSION

After the opening prayer, the Acting Executive Secretary explained that the Primate was unable to attend due to a severe illness, as a result of his trip to Armenia. Bishop Khajag expressed his sincere wish to be present, and regretted his absence.

The Acting Executive Secretary continued by explaining the general structure of a new Department of Youth Ministry. The leaders began by discussing the structure of such a department, in terms of how it would affect them and their parishes.

Many leaders suggested that the DYM focus on acquiring a Director of the Department, and then put regional coordinators in the field. The leaders felt it was more important to have one director and regional young adult coordinators, which would impact the parishes directly, rather than fill three positions at the Diocese.

Page 2
Memorandum

Also, they felt uncomfortable with age group distinctions in the upper categories (18 to 24) (25-35). At the very least it was suggested that age groups overlap and that there be no upper age limit to the young married group.

Some members felt that the structure was a good shell. Yet, the real questions were not being answered in the structural plan: What are we trying to accomplish?; What is our purpose and goal?; Where are we heading?; What is the five or ten year goal?

It was added that the ACYOA fulfills a social need for young Armenians in the Armenian Church, but are we more than a social organization, or should we focus on just social activities.

If we should be more than a social organization than what is the plan towards administering other programs.

Many expressed the concern that our clergy do not have experience with young adult ministry, and therefore, are not helpful to the youth and young adults. Rather, they discourage the young adults, and frustrate their efforts.

Also, many of the young adult leaders feel that the Clergy are too quick to comment on what is wrong with our youth or young adults, rather than listening to their needs and try to administer to their requests.

Many expressed the lack of manpower presently, and the deficiency to follow up on chapters and parish programs.

The leaders would like to meet annually before each assembly to discuss issues, as they did this weekend. All the participants felt that the meeting was in a great location which was conducive towards building brotherhood and sisterhood through group discussions. Boston was a fantastic location for such a gathering.

Some expressed a concern that if the Primate was not able to attend a representative such as the Vicar General should have been sent (This should have been the number one priority for the day).

CONCLUSIONS

All the leaders felt that dues should be done away with and that an emphasis should be put on generating dues paid parish members.

All would like to see better representation on a Diocesan level by this age group, and will make an effort to have more young adults active as Parish Council members and Parish Delegates.

Page 3
Memorandum

Many felt there was a need to have better liturgical instructions and educational programs for our church. A special emphasis was added to have better programs to educate non-Armenian spouses to the Armenian church and the church's doctrines.

A suggestion was made that all seminarians should be required to perform an internship in Young Adult and Youth Ministry.

A suggestion was made that there be one national sports competition on Labor Day weekend rather than two. It was recommended that the ACYOA discuss with the Primate the feasibility to open discussions with the Armenian Youth Federation towards holding one major event on Labor Day.

Finally, it was suggested that the ACYOA continue until the DYM is in place, and the new structure is running. The ACYOA should streamline its programs, while the DYM increases its activities.

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

June 10, 1991

TO: All ACYOA Chapter Chairpersons and Clergy

RE: New England Regional Meeting, June 15, 1991 in Worcester

Dear Friends:

Just a note to remind everyone of the next Regional meeting to be held this Saturday at 11:00 AM in Worcester. We have a delicious cookout planned following the meeting, as well as an exciting softball game. All interested members and guests are welcome to attend. Below are directions to our Church, in case anyone forgot! Please do not hesitate to contact either Deacon Norman at (508) 756-2931 (days) or myself at (508) 755-2775 (evenings) if you have any questions. We hope to see you all Saturday.

Sincerely,



Jay Kapur
Worcester ACYOA Chairman

From Boston: Mass Pike (I-90) West to Exit 10. Follow signs to I-290 East. Take Exit 17 (Rte. 9), left at end of ramp. Go through four sets of lights and look for Dean St. on the right. Take right at Dean all the way to end. Church is on the left.

From Conn: I-84 East to Mass Pike (I-90) East to Exit 10. Follow same instructions as above.

From Western Mass: Mass Pike (I-90) East to Exit 10. Follow same instructions as above.

From I-495: I-495 South to I-290 West. Take Rte. 9 Exit, right at bottom of ramp. Bear right towards WPI and Art Museum onto Salisbury Street. Go through three sets of lights. Church is on the left.



ARMENIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
87 Salisbury Street





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DATE: August 10, 1991

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/ldm
Enclosure

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March 6, 1991

CONFIDENTIAL INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian
From: Anthony Barsamian

Re: Six Month Assessment of the Youth and Young
Adult Program of the Diocese of the Armenian
Church of America.

Your Eminence:

This memorandum is to serve as a current assessment of the present state of the youth and young adult programs of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church.

In brief, this will serve as a summary of administrative, structural and program flaws that can no longer be overlooked or go unnoticed.

1. The administrative structure of the ACYOA as it relates to the Executive Secretary and the ACYOA Central Council is critically handicapping youth and young adult programs. The Central Council has embarked on an administrative course that it clearly incapable of achieving, and has conveyed this to the Executive Secretary.
2. The Diocesan Director has advised the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA to allow the Central Council as much deference as they wish. Thus, the Executive Secretary has had a limited role in the administration and development of ACYOA national programs. In essence, a "sink or swim" policy has been set in place, and the Central Council is sinking.
3. Through research, it has come to my attention that the ACYOA membership figures provided to the Diocese Administration has been over-inflated. Dues paid members of the ACYOA number four hundred, with a national mailing list of seventeen hundred. Fully active chapters are in the single digit numbers.
4. Recent national programs have either not been realized or have been mismanaged as a result of the administrative structural flaws.

5. The ACYOA Central Council has been running deficit budgets for the last three years, which has not been disclosed to the ACYOA General Assembly. *- explain*

6. ACYOA Juniors have not had comprehensive Diocesan wide leadership for many years. We are committing irreparable harm to our youth and young adult program by not nurturing this age group.

7. To date, there has been no plan to improve the ACYOA structure. The ACYOA Central Council realizes that there has been a breakdown and have requested a special meeting to discuss this with you. *explain*

8. There has not yet been a qualified candidate to assume the post of ACYOA Executive Secretary. I recommend that until structural changes are made, a qualified candidate will not be attracted to the post.

9. Srpazan Hayr, I believe emergency action is needed to implement immediate change in our youth and young adult organizational structure. Any delay continues to hurt our church.

10. There are encouraging signs that new programs have been effective and positive. Yet, unless we implement a new structure soon, *these* programs will also fail, and cease to exist.

11. The ACYOA College Programs are now starting to take shape. These programs are becoming very popular, and are serving a definite need within the Armenian College Student's Communities.

12. In conclusion, there is a window of opportunity presently available. Through out these six to eight months, I have tried to demonstrate a need for change to the Central Council. The council has now reached this realization. Since, the Central Council chair will have concluded her term this coming August, the opportunity for effective change will be present. Finally, there are new and exciting opportunities to work with our sister Dioceses and to work with Armenia to assist them by spreading the Gospel of Christ. The top priority is a workable structure.

March 6, 1991

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Re: Six Month Assessment of the Youth and Young Adult Program of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

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2. The Diocesan Director has advised the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA to allow the Central Council as much deference as they wish. Thus, the Executive Secretary has had a limited role in the administration and development of ACYOA national programs. In essence, a "sink or swim" policy has been set in place, and the Central Council is sinking.
3. Through research, it has come to my attention that the ACYOA membership figures provided to the Diocese Administration has been over-inflated. Dues paid members of the ACYOA number four hundred, with a national mailing list of seventeen hundred. Fully active chapters are in the single digit numbers. Chapter activities are critically low, and a leadership vacuum exists. Since, we have no strong ACYOA Juniors structure, the potential future leaders are also in jeopardy.

4. Recent national programs have either not been realized or have been mis-managed as a result of the administrative structural flaws. Council members would like to coordinate programs, but because of their volunteer status, are unable to devote the time needed.

5. The ACYOA Central Council has been running deficit budgets for the last three years, which has not been disclosed to the ACYOA General Assembly. I have requested that the ACYOA Central Council Treasurer present a report to you prior to our April 20th, meeting. Thus, with the lack of financial capacity along with the lack of time, the council has not been able to lead the chapters, implement programs, and administrate the ACYOA.

6. ACYOA Juniors have not had comprehensive Diocesan wide leadership for many years. We are committing irreparable harm to our youth and young adult program by not nurturing this age group. It is not clear whether the responsibility of working with the ACYOA Juniors falls upon the ACYOA Central Council, the Diocese, or the Executive Secretary.

7. To date, there has been no plan to improve the ACYOA structure. The ACYOA Central Council realizes that there has been a breakdown and have requested a special meeting to discuss this with the you. The interrelationship between the ACYOA Central Council members and the Executive Secretary has been positive, but the administrative responsibilities are not carried out properly. A decision has to be made, as to the status of an administrative body v. a functioning board of directors.

As board members the Primate, Clergy, Diocesan Council Liaisons, the FMD Director, FMD Officers, young adults, adults, former Central Council members, and former Executive Secretary's will serve as a guiding force for the Family Ministry Department.

Paid employees will be exclusively responsible for administration, coordination, implementation, visitations, and all budgetary aspects of the Family Ministry Department with the consent of the Board of Directors.

8. There has not yet been a qualified candidate to assume the post of ACYOA Executive Secretary. I recommend that until structural changes are made, a qualified candidate will not be attracted to the post. With a FMD Director goals and objectives can be clearly laid out, and coordinators and support staff will have a better sense of their responsibilities.

9. Srpazan Hayr, I believe emergency action is needed to implement immediate change in our youth and young adult organizational structure. Any delay continues to hurt our church.

10. There are encouraging signs that new programs have been effective and positive. Yet, unless we implement a new structure soon, these program will also fail, and cease to exist.

11. The ACYOA College Programs are now starting to take shape. These programs are becoming very popular, and are serving a definite need within the Armenian College Student's Communities.

12. In Conclusion, there is a window of opportunity presently available. Throughout these six to eight months, the council has realized the need for change. Since, there is this current realization, the opportunity for effective change is present. There are new and exciting vistas which we as the Armenian Church young adults can achieve, but not until internal changes have been realized. Our structure will hinder us to progress and lead the Armenian Church towards a brighter future. The top priority is a workable structure.



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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

May 9, 1991

TO: The Reverend Clergy and Parish Council Chairmen

SUBJECT: ACYOA CHAPTER CHAIRMEN MEETING ON JUNE 8, 1991

On Saturday, June 8, at 10:00 a.m. there will be a meeting of all ACYOA Chapter Chairmen at the St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, Massachusetts 02172, for the purpose of discussing new directions for our youth program.

The specific purpose of the meeting is to plan together a new course for our youth, college and young adult programs. It is crucial that we involve young adults in this process of growth and expansion and towards that end, I ask that you encourage a young adult leader from your parish to travel to this meeting in Watertown, Massachusetts; travel expenses should be underwritten by the parish.

Letters have been sent to the chapter chairman of each ACYOA. If your parish does not have an ACYOA chapter, please choose one capable young adult leader to represent your youth program.

I look forward to the June 8th meeting and to having as wide a parish representation as possible.

God bless you and grant us all great fortitude in His service.

With prayers,

Bp. K. Barsamian

Bishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

March 6, 1991

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From: Anthony Barsamian

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